

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSC-01

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R 301303Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2368

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, PINT

SUBJECT: LEBOWA: RAMUSI AXED

REFERENCE: CAPE TOWN A-60

1. LEBOWA'S FLAMBOYANT MINISTER OF INTERIOR, COLLINS RAMUSI, WAS DISCHARGED FROM HIS CABINET POSITION JULY 24 BY CHIEF MINISTER DR. CEDRIC PHATUDI. NO OFFICIAL REASONS WERE GIVEN FOR FIRING, THOUGH IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT RAMUSI'S UNDISCIPLINED PENCHANT FOR ANGERING WHITE AUTHORITIES AND TRADITIONAL TRIBAL LEADERS FINALLY BECAME TOO MUCH FOR PHATUDI TO CONTENANCE.

2. ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGABLE LEBOWAN GOVERNMENT SOURCE, RAMUSI, A VOCAL OPPONENT OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, HAD MOST INCURRED SAG WRATH BY HIS "AFRICANIZATION" CAMPAIGN THROUGH WHICH HE HOPED TO DISPLACE THE MAJORITY OF APPROXIMATELY 250 WHITE SAG OFFICIALS SECONDED TO LEBOWAN GOVERNMENT.

3. RAMUSI HAS ALSO HAD SEVERAL RUN-INS WITH SOME CONSERVATIVE

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TRIBAL CHIEFTAINS, WHO ANGERED BY HIS FREE-WHEELING STYLE AND BY

PLANS TO CHANGE LEBOWA'S CONSTITUTION IN ORDER TO LIMIT THEIR POWERS IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (REFAIR). WHITE OFFICIALS WERE REPORTEDLY ABLE TO PLAY OFF CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION TO RAMUSI AND THROUGH CAJOLING, PRESSURE AND PERHAPS SOME FINANCIAL PAYOFFS, GOT A MAJORITY OF LEGISLATIVE ASEMBLY TO ASK PHATUDI TO DISMISS RAMUSI.

4. THAT REQUEST WAS MADE IN MID-MAY. FACT THAT PHATUDI, WHO FOR SOME TIME HAS VIEWED RAMUSI AS A POLITICAL LIABILITY, WAITED OVER TWO MONTHS BEFORE BOOTING HIM IS TESTIMONY TO RAMUSI'S CONSIDERABLE STRENGTH. HE IS, REPORTEDLY, MOST POPULAR LEBOWAN OFFICIAL AMONG EDUCATED BLACKS IN HOMELAND AND IS PRIME MOVER OF RULING LEBOWA PEOPLES PARTY IN URBAN AREAS. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THREE OF FIVE REMAINING CABINET MINISTERS UPSET OVER PHATUDI'S ACTION AND ARE DEMANDING RAMUSI'S REINSTATEMENT. RAMUSI REMAINS MEMBER OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO MOVE AGAINST PHATUDI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BOWDLER

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